

Calcoin News

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
California State Numismatic Association

C O N T E N T S

CSNA 17th Semi-Annual Convention.....	Page 110
Panosh, Fogler Win Merit Awards	111
The Days of '49. Mrs. Harry Cutler	112
Names in World History. Dr. C. Glenn Curtis.....	116
Trends in Standard Issue Coins. Lesley G. Lodge.....	117
Canadian Numismatic Association Convention.....	118
From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer.....	119
Who's Who in California Numismatics.....	120
California Club News, Views and Whos.....	121
San Jose Coin Club Exhibits at County Fair.....	124
East Bay 'Coinival' Oct. 16	124

Volume 9, Number 6

NOVEMBER 1955



CSNA 17th Semi-Annual Convention

U. S. GRANT HOTEL, SAN DIEGO

NOVEMBER 10, 11, 12, 13

With its special Latin entertainment, the "Fiesta de Tijuana" Nov. 10 promises to be the highlight of the convention. The bus tour Nov. 11 features a scenic view of San Diego that cannot be matched for its beauty. The Nov. 12 boat tour of San Diego Bay will feature ships of the U.S. Navy, tuna fishing fleets and Shelter Island. Special entertainment will be provided on the tour. The trip to the San Diego Zoo will give the visitor a chance to see how it has been completely remodeled and enlarged, thus keeping pace with a fast-growing San Diego.

The post-mortem buffet supper will enable those who stay over to meet old friends and to make new ones.

NUMISMATIC FORUM

Leonel C. Panosh, forum chairman, promises three speakers at the Friday Forum. Dr. Nathan A. Bowers, Atherton, will speak on "Numismatic

Philosophy" and Dr. Ray H. Wilson, San Diego, on "Newfoundland and Its Coinage". Dr. Wilson will use colored slides to illustrate his talk. William H. Spence, Inglewood, will be third speaker.

AUCTION OFFERINGS

Outstanding items to be offered during the auction sessions Friday and Saturday afternoons include \$4 gold Stella; rare U.S. silver dollars, 1794 through 1803; 1851, 1852, 1858 and 1895 proof dollars; the extremely rare 1838 and 1839 Gobrecht dollars in brilliant proof; 1873CC dollar; type sets of U.S. commemoratives, silver and gold; two 1856 Flying Eagle cents (one reputedly the finest known); complete set U.S. gold dollars (all dates and mintmarks); early U.S. type coins including 1793 Liberty Cap cent, 1796 \$2.50 gold, 1796 half dollar; two 1796 quarters;

(Turn to Page 124)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

10:00 A.M.	Registration	Foyer
	Placing of Exhibits.....	Regency Room and Foyer
	Placing of Bourse.....	Riviera Room
4:00 P.M.	"Fiesta de Tijuana".....	Fronton, Tijuana, Mexico

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

8:00 A.M.	Breakfast Meeting of CSNA Officers.....	Ward Room
10:00 A.M.	Registration	Foyer
	Placing of Exhibits.....	Regency Room and Foyer
	Placing of Bourse.....	Riviera Room
10:00 A.M.	Bus Tour of San Diego	
1:00 P.M.	Ladies Event (Luncheon)	
1:15 P.M.	Auction, Leo Young.....	Ward Room
8:00 P.M.	Numismatic Forum.....	Ward Room

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

8:00 A.M.	Breakfast Meeting of Coin Club Officers.....	Ward Room
10:00 A.M.	Boat Tour of San Diego Bay	
1:00 P.M.	Ladies Event (Party)	
1:15 P.M.	Auction, Leo Young.....	Ward Room
7:00 P.M.	Banquet — Entertainment.....	Riviera Room

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

9:00 A.M.	Trip to San Diego Zoo	
12:00 Noon	Luncheon; Door Prizes.....	Venetian Room
3:00 P.M.	Adjournment of Convention	
6:00 P.M.	Post-Mortem Buffet Supper.....	Ward Room

Panosh, Fogler Win Merit Awards

Leonel C. Panosh, San Diego, and Edward Fogler, Oakland, were awarded Medals of Merit at the August ANA convention in Omaha, for outstanding service to the Association. Others receiving the award were Prof. John S. Davenport and Michael A. Powills.

Panosh and Dr. J. Hewitt Judd were presented commissions as admirals in the Nebraska Navy.

The San Diego Numismatic Society received first award for its National Coin Week exhibits. The report book on the exhibit, finest ever submitted, was prepared by Mildred Fischer and Francis S. Jones.

A resolution passed at the business meeting asks for a Statue of Liberty reverse for the Lincoln cent.

A Los Angeles bid for the 1958 convention presented by Karl M. Brainard, was seconded by L. B. Johnson and S. J. Kabealo.

Californians present at the convention included Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Panosh, Dr. and Mrs. N. A. Bowers, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Brainard, Mrs. Thelma Case, Mr. and Mrs. Leo A.



LEONEL C. PANOSH



EDWARD FOGLER

Young, Mr. and Mrs. William Smith, Mr. and Mrs. George Lefler, Mr. and Mrs. George Brown, Abe Kosoff, Abner Kreisberg, Harold Helgesen, Charles Jones, John Skubis, Albert J. Crites, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wildbeck, Mr. and Mrs. V. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. K. Jakobsen, James Andersen, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kabealo and W. T. Grant.

Leonel C. Panosh, newly-elected president, and the other officers and directors, were named for two-year terms. The 1956 convention will be held in Chicago and that of 1957 in Philadelphia.

—CSNA—

SCOUTS' COINS STOLEN

The Hanford Public Library was broken into June 26 and all quarters, half dollars and dollars in the Boy Scout display were stolen. U.S. coins of other denominations were left by the thieves. Because of the small value, no insurance was carried on the display, according to Clarence Berry. —Hanford Coin Collector.

The Days of '49

By MRS. HARRY CUTLER, San Francisco

It has been said truly that "coins are the pearls on the thread of history".¹ To those busy people and the younger generation who may not take the time to go back into the remarkable history of the minting of private gold coins in San Francisco, of the reason for the private coins, for the U. S. Assay Office, and the final establishment of the U. S. Branch Mint, a brief explanation may be helpful in enabling them to understand the circumstance which brought forth the beautiful coin specimens known as Pioneer Gold. Here are but a few of the amazing events which led to the minting of coins by private individuals.

To quote Edgar Adams who has so aptly explained it, "because of the discovery of gold in California, January 24, 1848, and the development of its mines, one of the most stringent financial periods through which this country has ever passed, abruptly ended. The enormous product of the precious metal thus thrown upon the markets of the world immediately placed our country on that solid and prosperous basis which it has ever since maintained, for the achievement of this result was unquestionably due

to the yield from the California mines, more than any other single agency."²

Prior to 1848 our country had been going through a period of economic depression which has since become proverbially known as the "Hard Times". This extended from 1833 to 1844 and the country had not yet recovered from its effects. There was an extreme shortage of currency, both gold and silver of all denominations, and great was the need.

When word went out throughout the country and into foreign lands of the gold discovery in California, many hundreds of ships set sail for the port of San Francisco, laden with goods to sell and trade. This merchandise had to pass through U. S. Customs and duties had to be paid. U. S. law required duties to be paid only in mint coin, and so all coined gold and silver was being hoarded by importers to pay customs. Silver also was required in payment of goods from China, as the Orientals

¹"March of Money".

²This and succeeding quotations from Edgar H. Adams, *Private Gold Coinage of California*.



Augustus Humbert, 50 dollars, 1852. Milled edge, target reverse.



Kellogg & Co., 50 dollars, 1855. Weight 1309 grains.

would not accept gold for their merchandise. Thus the San Francisco buyers were paying a premium in gold for silver coins to pay for their imports from China. This naturally added to the great scarcity of currency in the ordinary channels of trade.

In the summer of 1848, the need being imperative, Governor Mason was asked to provide some means of relief. He at once instructed the collector to accept gold-dust at its then intrinsic value of \$16 an ounce but was forced to revoke this as it violated U. S. law with regard to the kind of money acceptable to the government. He then permitted the merchants to deposit their gold-dust at the rate of \$10 an ounce, redeemable with the prescribed coin in 60 days. Otherwise, it would be sold at auction. As coin was almost unobtainable, they were compelled to stand hopelessly by and see their gold-dust sold for \$6 to \$8 per ounce, in most cases to a speculator who had somehow come into the possession of acceptable coin.

The San Francisco merchants then met to devise means to protect themselves against this heavy loss. Several methods were suggested but none proved satisfactory. As the supply was so extremely limited, it was then proposed that private assayers issue gold pieces to replace the common currency of gold dust. Early in 1849 the private issues began to appear, releasing the coins hoarded for duties and providing a

means by which the miners received considerably more for their gold than the established rate. In the United States proper, the first mining operations were conducted in North Carolina. Private gold coins were being made in Georgia and North Carolina as early as 1830 and long after the U. S. Branch Mint had begun operations there, and were still operating at the time of the great discovery in California. When, therefore, California felt the need of such an issue, no one disputed the right of private mints to supply it.

Among the many assayers operating in San Francisco was John L. Moffat, a highly respected former New York assayer, who with three partners was doing an assaying and gold brokerage business under the name of Moffat & Co. The first rectangular ingots of gold to appear bore their stamp, and passed current in place of coins. Soon, however, they issued circular \$10 pieces, all bearing the stamp of Moffat & Co. The closing months of 1849 saw an avalanche of private gold. Every big company from the East brought machinery for coining. These private mints rendered a great service at a critical time, increasing the value of raw gold in California. It also is reasonable that the private issue of gold quarters, halves and dollars was no doubt first prompted by the scarcity of fractional currency.

Did these courageous pioneers have an easy time of it from now on? Not

so, for some coiners, not satisfied with a normal profit, had debased their product to such an extent that suspicion was gradually brought upon the whole series and stirred the business men into action to provide some plan for relief. The result was that the State Legislature passed a bill requiring all coiners to redeem all such coin within 30 days or be subject to penalties. The Custom House and Post Office refused the coins and many mercantile firms denied them. Even the brokers would not take them at their par value.

Moffat & Co. published a statement assuring the public that they had defrauded no man as their coins were worth more than they purported to be; furthermore, the subject actually belonged to Congress and not to the State. The firm of Moffat & Co. alone survived the struggle of 1849. In 1850 two new companies appeared. On Sept. 30, 1850, Congress authorized the appointment of a United States Assayer. This was deemed preferable to the system of private coinage, although certainly not desirable as a regular mint issue. (Early in March 1851 the State Legislature repealed the Act of 1850 prohibiting coining by private individuals.)

The U. S. Assayer, Augustus Humbert, began his duties about the first of February, 1851. Moffat & Co. who had meanwhile become assay contractors, obtained the contract with the national government, abandoned their private issues and took up the exclusive work of striking the \$50 "slugs". The other companies continued minting private coins, though there continued an undercurrent of distrust in them. Soon bankers refused all of them excepting Moffat's, and the mercantile community followed. This resulted in abandonment of private issues for the second time. All private coins went to the Assay Office melting pot, only to appear as \$50 slugs, leaving nothing of the smaller denominations for local circulation. U. S. mint and other coins were hoarded as before and once more the lack of coin was felt by every class in the community. The embarrassment became so great that Moffat & Co. asked to be permitted to issue ingots of less than \$50 value but this was refused as "inexpedient" and the disastrous effect on business,

both in San Francisco and throughout the State, was a theme of complaint. It was not until December 1851 that the U. S. Assayer was authorized to stamp gold ingots of the value of \$10 and \$20 and this permission was revoked the following day! But before the permission and recall could reach San Francisco many prominent bankers and business men had united in requesting Moffat & Co. to issue \$300,000 in small denominations bearing their private stamp to meet the pressing need, until the U. S. Assayer should receive proper authority to do so. This request was dated Jan. 5, 1852. Moffat & Co. reluctantly consented and in a few days the new pieces appeared. This met with some criticism, notwithstanding the urgent need so generally admitted. A vigorous appeal to the Secretary of the Treasury made by the U. S. Assayer and supplemented by the influence of prominent business men in California and New York had an evident effect, for on Feb. 11, 1852, authority was received to issue \$10 and \$20 ingots at the U. S. Assay Office, and this was continued during 1853.

On July 3, 1852, the Act authorizing the establishment of the San Francisco Branch Mint was passed by Congress. The procrastination of a branch mint was at an end at last! The construction of the mint was finished in 1854 and by April 3 it was in operation. The coins issued were more to test the machinery and once more the need for currency was met by private issues. This time the coins were made by Kellogg & Company. John G. Kellogg, who had been cashier for Moffat & Co. and remained with the U. S. Assay Office until it dissolved in December 1853, opened an assay office of his own.

In 1854 a petition was addressed to Mr. Kellogg asking that gold be struck with their stamp. Kellogg & Co. issued their first coin Feb. 9, 1854. It was an exact and very handsome imitation of the United States coins, the only difference being the name in place of Liberty, and yellow instead of copper alloy. The Branch Mint still was not making sufficient coins; therefore, Kellogg made the bulk of the issues. The latter part of 1854 the company dissolved and became Kellogg & Humbert, and continued until 1860,

though they ceased striking coins in 1855 after making more in that year than before, effecting over 50% more toward the supply than the United States Mint. In fact, the newspaper at that time said, but for this private mint, San Francisco might have been bankrupt. So far as general circulation was concerned, the end of 1856 saw the private gold coins of California quietly pass out of existence.

The dies for the Kellogg \$50 slug were cut by a well known die cutter, Ferdinand Gruner, and represent one of the handsomest pieces of diecutting in the entire California series. These dies are still in existence. Today there are only 13 known pieces, and it is thought it may never have gone beyond the experimental stage. However, in a letter dated 1891, Kellogg's son stated that his father had struck 60,000 pieces. This letter was printed in the *Numismatist*, February 1921. If this is true, the coins probably were recoined by the Branch Mint.

"The coins struck in California from 1849 to 1855 inclusive, which passed as money, form one of the most interesting series of pieces that have ever been issued in this country, for they were intimately connected with a time which, with the exception of the Wars of the Revolution of 1812, and of 1861, was one of the most sensational in our national history."

We are deeply indebted to these pioneers and we cannot but feel a sense of gratitude for the discovery

of gold in California at a time of extreme crisis in the history of our great country. Gold has not circulated as money since 1933, it being stored as bullion, saving the cost of coinage. The United States Branch Mint in San Francisco, established 100 years ago, discontinued coining on March 25 of this year. Thus another institution which is welded into the history of California has quietly closed its doors to the manufacture of money. **THE END**

Cuts of pioneer gold coins illustrating article courtesy A. Kosoff, P.O. Box 456, Encino, Calif.

—CSNA—

ALBERT J. CRITES

Albert J. Crites, Sacramento, died Sept. 6 at his home. Burial took place Sept. 8. Crites had just returned from the Omaha ANA convention, where he had bourse space. Since his retirement for health reasons a few years ago as salesman for Armour & Co. in the Sacramento Valley area, Crites had dealt in coins.

Al was a member of CSNA and ANA, and was active in the now inactive Capitol City Coin Club, Sacramento.

—CSNA—

GOPHER TAIL MONEY

Money was scarce in the early days of North Dakota and the territorial government had offered a 3-cent bounty on gophers, so it was the practice to drop a gopher tail into the church collection plate instead of cash.



Wass, Molitor & Co., 50 dollars, 1855. Weight 1287.5 grains.

Names in World History

AUGUSTUS CAESAR

29 B.C. - 14 A.D.

By DR. C. GLENN CURTIS, Brea

The history books tell us that this man made a mighty good ruler for the Roman people for 43 years. Augustus Caesar was not his real name. It was a title.

The Roman Senate in 27 B.C. wanted to honor the man whom Caesar had selected to be the first Emperor of Rome. They conferred on him the title, "Augustus", which had been used before only in conjunction with Roman gods.

His real name was Caius Octavius Coepius. He was the grandnephew of Julius Caesar.

It seems that in 44 B.C. the Senate

made Julius Caesar the perpetual dictator of Rome. He was murdered shortly afterward and when his will was read, Mark Antony, Caesar's trusted lieutenant, was bitterly disappointed because it named one of his kinfolk as his successor.

Augustus Caesar and Mark Antony became bitter enemies and things looked pretty bad for both of them until Antony went down to Egypt to do some heavy lovemaking with Julius' old girl friend, Cleopatra. In 31 B.C., Augustus totally defeated Antony in battle and shortly afterward Antony committed suicide. Cleo was so lonesome because her two lover boys were dead and she had no likely prospects for the immediate future, that she got hold of a little snake to bite her on the neck. This finished her off in short order.

Augustus was very suspicious of everybody around him for fear that he would meet the same fate as Julius Caesar. However, he lived to the ripe old age of 77 with no more serious difficulties except two divorces which were either not his fault or were obtained for the good of the empire.

Pictured enlarged is a silver cistophoric medallion, struck about 27 B.C. in the East, probably at Pergamum. Obv.: Head of Augustus, bare. IMP. CAESAR. Rev.: Capricorn, right, head turned back, on its back a cornucopiae; around, laurel-wreath; AVGVSTVS. BMC 287 var. The Cistophori coins had been used in Asia Minor since 200 B.C. and it was natural for the Romans to continue them.

References: Grueber, H. A. *Coins of the Roman Republic in the British Museum*. London, 1910. Carey, Michael P. *The Emperors of Rome*. 1951.

—————CSNA—————

PARKERS VISIT ALASKA

Mr. and Mrs. Earl A. Parker celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a two-week trip to Alaska during September.



Trends in Standard Issue Coins

By LESLEY G. LODGE, San Francisco

Since the inauguration of the first United States Mint in Philadelphia in 1792, there have been many changes in the designs of our standard issue coins, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent to \$1. Yet, how many of us have studied or even bothered to consider these changes? Do you realize that at present our standard issue coins all may be classified as "memorials"?

The original law specified that the eagle was to appear on the reverse of our coins.

This was followed through on the silver dollars from 1794 to 1935 (since which time none has been minted, nor is it likely that any will be for many years, if ever). The half dollar carried the eagle from 1794 to 1947; the quarter dollar from 1796 to date, and it is interesting to note that this is the only coin now being minted which bears a full-size replica of an eagle. The dimes portrayed the eagle from 1796 to 1838; and the half-dimes or 5-cent pieces from 1794 to 1837. At no time did the eagle ever appear on the $\frac{1}{2}$ -cent, 2-cent or 3-cent pieces. The Flying Eagle cent carried it on the obverse for but two years — 1857 and 1858. This is the only 1-cent piece to portray the eagle.

On most of our coins, from the first ones minted up to fairly recent dates, a figure of "Liberty" appeared on the obverse. She was portrayed in several ways: head and bust; seated; or merely her head. On one issue each of the quarters and halves, "Liberty" was standing. On all of these coins, the designs of "Liberty" were from the imaginations of the various designers.

It was in 1859, nearly 100 years ago, that a startling change took place — the issuance of the Indian Head cents. This was the beginning of the change to a "memorial" type coin. It was not until 1909, fifty years later, however, that any other "memorial" type standard issue coins were minted.

The Indian Head cent is a true "memorial" to the many Indian tribes which at one time roamed over and controlled all of our country. The most surprising thing about

this coin is that a check of the names of various Indian tribes discloses that the first letters of about 70% of them comprise the words "Indian Head Cents". For example: "I" (Iriquois), "N" (Navajo), "D" (Diggers), etc. The letters "N", "E" and "T" are the scarcest, and the letter "S" is the most common one. Every section of our country is represented by one of these letters and Indian tribes. Today the Indian Head cent has as great an appeal to collectors and non-collectors as any of our standard issue coins.

The Lincoln cent followed the Indian Head cent in 1909 — the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of our greatest, if not the greatest, American. This coin, with but minor changes, principally in the size and position of the letters VDB, still is being issued, and no doubt will continue to be our standard 1-cent piece for many years to come.

In 1913 our nickel or 5-cent piece appeared with the head of an Indian on the obverse (and as such is a memorial, the same as the Indian Head cent). On the reverse is a buffalo (or correctly, bison). From time far past, and no one knows how far back, these animals roamed in countless numbers over our great western plains. Their hides provided the Indians of that region with material for robes and for coverings for their dwellings. Their flesh provided the Indians with meat. With the coming of the white man, however, the slaughter of the buffalo commenced, and today there are but few of these animals remaining in our country. The portrayal of the buffalo is indeed a "memorial" to the West as it once was.

In 1938 the second change occurred on the 5-cent piece, and it became the third of our present standard issue coins to portray another great American, Thomas Jefferson, one of our patriots of Revolutionary War days. The reverse depicts his home "Monticello", which still stands and is a mecca for many tourists when visiting the State of Virginia.

The dime or 10-cent piece was the

fourth of our coins to change over to the "memorial" type. In 1946 the portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt was placed on the obverse. This has been the most controversial of our Americans to be placed on our coins, inasmuch as FDR, as he usually was called, was loved and revered by millions, and equally hated and despised by others. Only time will tell where FDR takes his place among our great Americans.

In 1932 our 25-cent piece was changed. The portrait of George Washington is shown on the obverse. As the date marked the 200th anniversary of his birth, the coin originally was intended as a commemorative. None was minted in 1933, and in 1934 it was adopted as the standard issue.

In 1948 the last change was made — on the 50-cent piece. The portrait of another great Revolutionary War figure, Benjamin Franklin, appears on the obverse. And, most fittingly, on the reverse is the famous Liberty Bell. (You will note that earlier in this article it was stated that the quarter is the only coin still to portray the eagle. This statement is not entirely correct, as on the reverse of the Franklin half dollar is a very small replica of an eagle. Have you ever noticed it?)

From the foregoing it can be seen readily that our standard issue coins may properly be classified as "memorials", inasmuch as all of them bear portraits of past Americans. Only the 1909 Lincoln cent and the 1932 Washington quarter, however, can be considered as commemoratives.

As a point of speculative interest — which of our present coins, 1-cent, 5-cent, 10-cent, 25-cent and 50-cent pieces, will be considered for a change in design some time in the future? If and when this is done, what will the change be?

THE END



THE ROYAL CANADIAN MINT

CSNA Members Attend Canadian Coin Convention

Roy Hill and Dennis Olswang, San Francisco, attended the recent Canadian Numismatic Assn. convention in Ottawa. Registration totaled 93. Hill exhibited "S" Mint material; Olswang, coins of Korea. Visits to The Royal Canadian Mint and The Bank of Canada were highlights. A. P. Williams, master of The Royal Canadian Mint, was speaker at the banquet.

The auction brought surprising prices for Canadian coins: 1891 "small date" cent, \$35; 1927 quarter, \$38; 1889 10-cent, \$65; 1921 silver 5-cent, \$130; and a well-circulated 1921 half dollar, \$505. A Newfoundland 10-cent piece of 1885 brought \$29.

Hill states that on The Bank of Canada tour, he learned that paper money, printed by two firms which get assignments from the bank, comes in sheets of 24 notes, unsigned. At the bank the signing is done on precision presses, the mint preparing dies for the signature plates. The sheets are then cut into two units of 12 notes, counted by an ingenious device, packaged, sealed and identified and recounted from a corner of the package by a device as before, then put away until needed.

Current coins may be purchased from The Royal Canadian Mint by mail. Mint sets are mounted in a cardboard holder. They are not proofs but appear to be because of the "kid glove" handling they get as compared with the regular output. These may be obtained for \$2.10, Canadian funds, certified check only, made payable to The Receiver General of Canada, and addressed to A. P. Williams, master, Royal Canadian Mint, Ottawa, Ont., Canada. Silver dollars alone, as in the set, are \$1.25, compared to face for the regular dollars.

Roy Hill, who received quite a writeup in the *Ottawa Citizen*, reports that Canadians are pointing to 1958 to mark their centennial of coinage and 50 years of making Canadian coins in Ottawa.

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS

682	AUSTIN, Robert J.	1116 Mandana Blvd., Oakland 10, Calif.
686	COHEN, Jerome L.	307 East Congress St., Tucson, Ariz.
683	FIEBERLING, Mrs. Thelma.....	5660 Amy Drive, Oakland 18, Calif.
681	GRAVES, Ralph C.	149 Coral View, Monterey Park, Calif.
680	GRIMM, Clyde L.	1039 Lyman Ave., Oak Park, Ill.
685	NICHOLS, Gene N.	P.O. Box 325, Balboa Island, Calif.
684	NICHOLS, Kenneth L.	P.O. Box 325, Balboa Island, Calif.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Cash on hand July 31, 1955.....		\$481.95
Receipts: 1955 dues	\$ 7.00	7.00
Total receipts		\$488.95
Disbursements: Mailing, <i>Calcoin News</i>	17.57	
Miscellaneous expense, <i>Calcoin News</i>	8.52	26.09
Cash on hand Sept. 30, 1955.....		\$462.86

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership July 31, 1955	416
Membership Sept. 30, 1955	423
Paid-up members July 31, 1955	384
Paid-up members Sept. 30, 1955	391

THOMAS W. WARD,
Secretary-Treasurer.

CSNA

The Goddess of Liberty who graces
U.S. coins is copied from the Roman
coins of nearly 2000 years ago.

CALCOIN NEWS

Official Publication of the
California State Numismatic Association

Editor.....Charles V. Kappen
2201 Peachtree Lane, San Jose 28, Calif.
Assistant Editor.....William H. Connell
2009 86th Ave., Oakland 21, Calif.
Assistant Editor.....William H. Spence
11807 S. Atkinson Ave., Inglewood 4, Calif.

OFFICERS

President.....Robert G. McArthur
2377 Grande Vista Place, Oakland 1, Calif.
Vice-President.....Harry S. Davidson
2960 The Mall, Los Angeles 23, Calif.
Secretary-Treasurer.....Thomas W. Ward
Rt. 1, Box 85, Fallbrook, Calif.
Librarian-Curator.....Stewart J. Bingham
533 E. Longden, Arcadia, Calif.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. N. A. Bowers, Dr. Calvert L. Emmons,
Charles V. Kappen, Ralph A. Mitchell,
Leonel C. Panosh

CSNA members receive *Calcoin News* without
additional cost beyond their annual dues of \$2.

Vol. IX NOVEMBER, 1955 No. 6

Dealers: Attention

Any dealer member of the CSNA is eligible to submit a bid for the CSNA spring convention auction. The convention will be held at the Hotel Sainte Claire, San Jose, Calif., April 19-22.

CSNA officers and directors will make the selection during the Nov. 10-13 San Diego convention. Any dealer desiring information on the subject is invited to write the secretary for details.

Proposals should be submitted in writing, and, if desired, may be sealed, not to be opened until submitted to the board Nov. 11.

CSNA

'CAESAR' DERIVATIVES

Both "Czar" and "Kaiser" were derived from Julius Caesar's name, as was the surgical operation known as "Caesarian section". The latter was named after him because of the popular belief that he was brought into the world through such an operation.

Who's Who In California Numismatics

~
JOHN C. YRIBARNE
~

By **WILLIAM H. SPENCE**

Thirty years of coin collecting is but part of the story of John C. Yribarne, well known by and among California numismatists. He first became interested in his avocation through acquisition of some Indian head cents, but since has added many specimens to include the entire U.S. field. He also has a specialized collection of Biblical coins.

John is a member of many numismatic organizations, attesting to his active interest. He joined the American Numismatic Association in 1944 (No. 10772) and the California State Numismatic Association in 1949 (No. 410). He also is a member of Long Beach Coin Club (No. 2), Los Angeles Coin Club (No. 414), Orange County Coin Club (No. 381), San Bernardino County Coin Club (No. 50) and San Diego Numismatic Society (No. 258).

In addition to membership in these organizations, Yribarne has served the Long Beach Coin Club as one of its founders and as vice-president (1950), president (1951-52), director (1953) and ANA club representative (1950-54). As though this were not enough, he currently is president of the San Bernardino County Coin Club, serving in that capacity during 1954 and 1955.

John calls himself a numismatic "pack rat", never having sold a coin in his 30 years of collecting.

In addition to his coins, he has a numismatic library, a section of which contains about 25 volumes on Biblical coins, but which he maintains is far from complete. Also along literary lines, he has had articles published in *Calcoin News*



and *The Numismatist* during the period 1950-53.

Yribarne's distinctive surname is of Basque origin. His father was French and his mother Spanish, though they lived only two hours' walk apart, in the Basque country situated in the Pyrenees Mountains dividing France and Spain. John was born on a sheep and cattle ranch near Long Beach Sept. 18, 1894, his parents having settled there in 1886. He attended elementary and high schools in Long Beach and studied law at Southwestern University Law School. His business career has been varied and interesting. Starting in 1919 as a machinist in a Long Beach shipyard, he became a cement contractor (1920-27), a surveyor (1927-29), and a service station operator and auto parts distributor (1929-48). He sold this business in 1948 and moved to Redlands, where he lives with his wife, Ethel, whom he married in 1926. John built his own home in Redlands, taking five years to do so, and he reports that it is still not complete! He is now self-employed, describing himself as a speculative building contractor.

A veteran of service in the U.S. Navy, Yribarne also has been a director of the Gasoline Dealers Association (1934-35), board chair-

(Turn to Page 124)

California Club News, Views and Whos



East Bay Coin Club

Meets 2nd Friday,
8 P.M., at Hotel
Claremont, Oakland

Jules Charbneau addressed the club at its Aug. 12 meeting, which was attended by 36 members and 12 guests. Charbneau spoke on "Coins, Collectors and Collections I Have Seen throughout the World". He spoke briefly on Farran Zerbe, who gave his coins to the Chase National Bank to start them on their now famous collection. He showed one case of miniatures and one case of the smallest coins, relating how he assisted in the manufacture of some of the miniatures. The speaker was introduced by President Gil Eaton.

The problem of a new meeting place was discussed. Possibilities are the Oakland Veterans Bldg. and the new Boat House on Lake Merritt.

Walt Ritchie reported on plans for the "Coinival" Oct. 16 at the Oakland Boys Club. No auction material will be accepted on the day of the Coinival, according to Ed Fogler. Turkey dinner will be served and hot dogs will be available throughout the day.

Ritchie and Don Thrall discussed the recent visit to Parks Air Force Base Hospital.

Exhibitors were Leo Young, Ken Allen, Charles R. Bigelow, E. A. Parker, Roy Hill, Charles N. Peters, Bruce Payne, Don Thrall, John E. Ohls and Clifford H. Bloom.

Membership applications were received from D. M. McLemore, 4431 Reinhardt Dr., Oakland; David G. Robertson, 2811 Channing Way, Berkeley; and Walter Brandt Bolton, 425 Moraga Ave., Piedmont.

Earl Parker auctioned 47 lots. Coffee and sandwiches were served.

* * *

Speaker at the July 7 meeting was Col. Waddell F. Smith, San Rafael, a direct descendant of one of the founders of the Pony Express. Waddell described briefly the extension of the U.S. to its present geographical boundaries, and the early transportation of mail, or the lack of it.

First it was sent by ship, then by stage through Texas to Los Angeles, then north to San Francisco — some 2800 miles in about 21 days. The Civil War cut this southern route.

The trucking firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell was the first to operate lines from Missouri to California direct without transfer. Russell orally promised a member of Congress to start a Pony Express service, without the knowledge or consent of his partners. They were opposed to the idea because of the lack of assurance of a subsidy, without which they were bound to lose money.

The firm honored the promise and the first run started April 3, 1860. The 1966-mile route was covered in 10 days. Record run was seven days and 17 hours. The only major Indian trouble was in Nevada with the Piutes. Wells, Fargo & Co. was connected with the service only as agent in San Francisco and Sacramento. The speaker was introduced by Fred Monteagle.

The present inadequate and unsatisfactory club meeting place was discussed, and a committee composed of Walter and Thelma Fieberling, Don Thrall and Fred Monteagle was appointed to investigate possible new locations.

Forty-one members and 17 guests were present.

—Don T. Thrall,
Recording Secretary.

Garfield Numismatists

Meets 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 P.M., at Berkeley School
Administration Bldg., 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley

Gilbert D. Eaton, East Bay Coin Club president, addressed the club Oct. 11 on Indian Head cents and exhibited his collection.

The Sept. 13 meeting was held at the home of Arthur Johnson, secretary. Roy Hill, counselor, who had returned just the day before from the Canadian Numismatic Association convention at Ottawa, described his visits to the Royal Canadian Mint and the Bank of Canada.

—Arthur Johnson, Secretary.
Roy Hill, Counselor.

Los Angeles Coin Club

Meets 1st Friday, 8 P.M., at
Foresters' Hall, Los Angeles

A new record attendance of 133 members and guests was established at the 329th meeting Aug. 5. President William H. Spence presided. Abner Kreisberg and Cecil Suit were voted into membership.

W. Wishart Macfarren spoke on "Clean Coins vs. Cleaned Coins". With emphasis on the artistic approach, he described various methods of cleaning that may be used to enhance the appearance of coins. He also described several methods which he deemed inadvisable to use since they result in altering the natural appearance or detract from the beauty of coins. In his summarizing remarks, Macfarren took the position that any coin, in from good to extremely fine condition, can be increased in value aesthetically, if not monetarily, with proper cleaning and care.

Macfarren illustrated his talk with an exhibit of copper, silver and gold coins, labeled to show proper and improper cleaning methods.

Announcement was made of formation of Numismatic Association of Southern California, a regional organization embracing the geographical area implied in its title. Some discussion of its aims and purposes ensued, and at its next regular meeting, the club will vote on the question of affiliation with the NASC.

Following refreshments, George Bennett conducted the auction.

* * *

The July 1 meeting was attended by 96 members and guests. Special guests present were John P. Skribiski, Amherst, Mass., secretary of the Franklin County Coin Club and D. S. Tomkies, Huntington, W. Va., secretary of the Huntington Coin Club. George E. Finnell, Merlin N. Harris, I. B. Hathaway and Paul C. Zimmerman were elected to membership.

Program feature was ANA Slide Set No. 19, newest in the series, on State Bank Note Engravings.

Exhibits: Abel Sampson, complete set presidential medals, as issued by the U.S. Mint; Jack Seeler, complete sets uncirculated Mercury dimes, including 42/41, shield nickels, Indian

and Lincoln cents; Vreeland H. Fraser, 1854-55 Kellogg \$20 gold, Liberty \$20 and \$10 gold, St. Gaudens \$20 gold and \$4 gold Stella; William H. and Esther G. Spence, special ANA display, including membership cards, pins, plaque and membership medals, membership rosters, library catalogs and membership application forms. These were presented as part of a program to acquaint new collectors with the ANA.

—(Mrs.) Esther G. Spence,
Secretary.



Orange Co. Coin Club

Meets 4th Wednesday,
8 P.M., at Woman's
Clubhouse, Brea

President Winn Osborne greeted 91 members and 12 guests to the 204th regular meeting June 22. Three new members were voted into the club.

The program was devoted to a grand slam display of beautiful coins, mostly proof and uncirculated. Each exhibitor gave a short talk about his display. Leading off was Ben W. Williams, collector - of - the - month, with a U.S. gold type set, Mexican gold type set and other U.S. and foreign gold coins.

Other exhibitors were Vreeland Fraser, U.S. proof coins; Charles Ruby, complete set U.S. Flying Eagle pattern cents, U.S. proof gold commemoratives, 1798/97 dime, proof and uncirculated U.S. dollars and two 1794 U.S. silver dollars; Dr. Verner G. Rich, Japanese gold coins and medals and two gold decorated Samurai swords; Dr. Calvert L. Emmons, complete set U.S. gold dollars, U.S. gold type set, 1867 and 1868 U.S. proof sets, complete set buffalo nickels and U.S. currency; Dr. C. Glenn Curtis, U.S. silver dollars, 1794-1935, U.S. fractional currency on Treasury shield and Swedish plate money; and Herbert M. Bergen, U.S. minor coins, small cents to quarters, complete except for a few rarities.

* * *

Abe Kosoff, Encino, spoke at the May 25 meeting on "Money Talks".

Nine guests and 104 members were present.

Using the best known coins of Ancient Greece and of Alexander the Great for his medium, Kosoff recited in story form the history behind these coins. Lowell Wood, program chairman, introduced the speaker.

Stewart Bingham, collector-of-the-month, told of his numismatic interests. Vreeland Fraser had an outstanding display of U.S. proof sets.

Special recognition was given to member Kenneth L. Nichols of Balboa Island for his exhibit at Balboa during National Coin Week.

After refreshments, Joe Steele conducted the auction.

—Herbert M. Bergen,
Secretary.

Peninsula Coin Club

Meets 1st Wednesday in San Carlos
Recreation Center, San Carlos

The 17th meeting Aug. 3 was presided over by Madeline Bergman, vice-president.

Roy Hill and Michael Counihan were appointed to investigate possibilities for a new meeting place.

The new membership cards were displayed. It was decided to buy proof and other coins for raffle and auction.

Exhibits: Jim Ferguson, early U.S.; Stanley Blois, foreign gold; Roy Hill, encased postage and merchants' tokens; Michael Counihan, quarter with "7" on it; Madeline Bergman, early U.S. type sets.

* * *

Speaker at the June 1 meeting was Ray Spangler, Redwood City, who talked of San Mateo County being dependent on San Francisco for its water and highways. He also discussed politics, past and present, in San Francisco and San Mateo County. All members and seven guests were present.

Exhibits: Les Lodge, odd coins and coins bearing eagles; Madeline Bergman, gold pieces and set; Stanley Blois, Queen Elizabeth set; Jim Ferguson, U.S. type sets; Billy Schulz, British coins and tokens; and Dee Currie, tokens.

—Anna Marie Currie,
Secretary.



San Bernardino Co. Coin Club

Meets 3rd Thursday,
8 P.M., at Legion Hall,
631 "G" St., San
Bernardino

The 86th meeting Aug. 18 was attended by 38 members and the following visitors: Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Hanson and Dick and Cheryl Thompson, San Bernardino; David Johnson, Ontario; John Colver, San Dimas, and Mrs. Rita Aldridge, La Verne.

The annual picnic Aug. 21 was discussed. The treasure chest was loaded for its part in the program.

Bryan Burke, collector-of-the-month, showed slides of early Colonial and related coins, discussing them. Among these were the 4-reales made in Mexico in pre-Colonial days and the Fugio cent.

O. H. Lages was appointed publicity chairman.

After Fred Coops distributed door prizes and refreshments were served, Herb Feinberg zoomed the auction to new highs. Uncirculated Jefferson nickels brought astronomical figures.

—L. L. Brown,
Secretary.



San Jose Coin Club

Meets 1st Monday,
8 P.M., at Hotel
DeAnza, San Jose

Junior collectors presented the program at the Aug. 1 meeting, presided over by Roy Hill, vice-president. Twenty-nine members and guests were present, including Robert G. McArthur, president of the California State Numismatic Association, and Mrs. McArthur.

Tom Boyce, program chairman for the evening, led off with an excellently prepared exhibit and talk on world commemoratives. Don Lillo presented his collection of U.S. coins, 1828-1955, and Tony Delmonico showed sets of U.S. buffalo nickels and Canadian large and small cents. The boys were commended for their

fine exhibits and all junior collectors present were introduced.

Charles V. Kappen announced that Dr. Calvert L. Emmons of Ontario had very graciously donated Vol. 1, No. 1 of the **CSNA Bulletin** to the San Jose Coin Club. This completes our file.

Major Kappen displayed his newly reprinted book, **Hard Times Tokens** by Lyman Haynes Low and Roy Hill exhibited old Sonora bank notes and a foreign uniface coin.

Vice-President Hill called upon President Austen Warburton, who had just arrived from his trip to Mexico, to give a resume of his travels, which he did. Warburton presented 1-centavo pieces to everyone present.

It was voted to amend the constitution to create the office of junior vice-president.

—Beverly Gayle Smith,
Secretary.

————CSNA————

Auction Offerings

(Continued from Page 110)

two 1796 dimes; 1795 \$5 and \$10 gold.

There will be on sale choice pieces of ancient gold and silver including gold daric of Persia, gold of Lydia and many Biblical coins. There will be a nice assortment of the more common U.S. material; foreign crowns and sets; U.S. and foreign gold; paper money; odd and curious money; a large dealers' and investors' section, complete Indian Head cent sets uncirculated; many proof sets, Pioneer gold and a fine selection of numismatic books.

Leo A. Young, auctioneer, says he also will sell what he believes to be the largest selection and largest variety of rolls of U.S. uncirculated coins ever to be offered at public auction.

————CSNA————

John C. Yribarne

(Continued from Page 120)

man of the Tire Dealers Association (1935-36) and director of the Automobile Parts Association (1934-38).

Recently he assisted in the organization of the Garden Grove Coin Club, further exemplifying his tireless interest in numismatics and numismatic organizations.

SAN JOSE COIN CLUB HAS EXHIBIT AT COUNTY FAIR

Once again the San Jose Coin Club joined in the spirit of "Hi Neighbor!" at the Santa Clara County Fair, Sept. 12-18, with a booth in which many phases of coin collecting were exhibited. The fair drew an attendance of 236,396 persons during the seven days.

Exhibitors were Tom Boyce, "What Coin Collectors Collect"; Don Lillo, U.S. coins; Charles V. Kappen, money of the Mexican Revolution; Charles Gilbert Kappen, Lincoln cents and Buffalo nickels; William H. Stones, U.S. coins; R. H. Smith, U.S. coins; Roy Hill, "S" Mint historical items and numismatic wall decorations; Tony Delmonico, U.S. coins; Bill Scarbrough, medals of naval heroes; Rudy Gjurovich, small gold coins of the world and historic coins of the world; George F. Kohl, numismatic literature and various types of coin holders.

Work of setting up and arranging was done by Rudy Gjurovich, R. H. Smith, William H. Stones, Tom Boyce, Roy Hill and Charles V. Kappen.

————CSNA————

CALIFORNIA GOLD

"Ormsby Heirlooms", an article by John W. Winkley in the **Oakland Tribune** of Sept. 18, tells the story of Major William M. Ormsby and his brother, J. S., who "came to California in 1849 and settled in Sacramento where they were authorized to mint gold coins bearing the inscription 'United States of America' plus the value, either \$5 or \$10. Only two or three of these coins are known still to be in existence. A dentist, Dr. William M. Light, cut the coins out of gold bars with a die which he struck with a heavy hammer."

————CSNA————

EAST BAY 'COINIVAL'

The East Bay Coin Club, Oakland, will hold its third annual "Coinival" Sunday, Oct. 16, at the Oakland Boys' Club. Exhibits, bourse and auction sessions will be held. A movie will be provided for the children at the time of the auctions.

Turkey dinner will be served and hot dogs will be available throughout the day. A. W. "Walt" Ritchie is "Coinival" chairman.

Visitors are welcome.